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PENNSYLVANIA
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NETWORK

GLBT INFORMATION
SINCE
1998

VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 10 NO. 4

MAY 2007

prizmprom

presents

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

A Celebration for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Allied (GLBTQA) Youth

Saturday, May 5, 2007
7PM-11PM



**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Lehigh Valley
(UUCLV)**
424 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA

Ages 14-20

Formal attire is optional,
but is strongly recommended.

Tickets:
\$10 at the door

For more information

www.prizmprom.com

The Prism Prom is brought to you by HAVEN,
a GLBTQA Youth Group that meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm
at the Unitarian Universalist Church of LV.
Contact HAVEN at havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com
or 610-268-2132

SEE MORE ABOUT HAVEN'S PRIZM PROM ON PAGE 3.

ART Show BENEFITTING

THE "PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
PHOTO PROJECT --

**150 SAME-SEX COUPLES:
FACING INEQUALITY"**

GABELLINI DESIGN 610-439-3610
1952 ALLEN STREET, ALLENTOWN

The Photo
Project will be
on exhibition
through
May 19

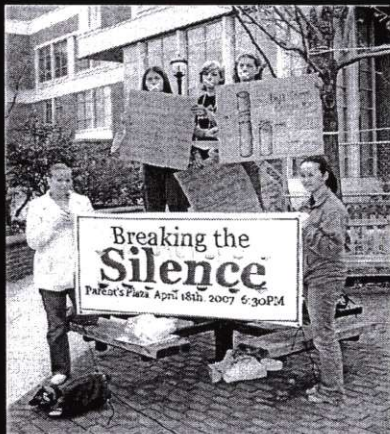
READ MORE ABOUT THE GABELLINI DESIGN /
PA DIVERSITY ART SHOW ON PAGE 3.

READING PRIDE HOSTS SPECIAL EVENT - MAY 20

Reading Pride to present - An Evening at Stirling: A Celebration of
Pride and Diversity on May 20, at the Stirling Guest Hotel, 1120
Centre Avenue in Reading, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Tickets \$25.
The event will feature food and drink, to be followed by a concert
given by: pianist Danny Coldren, vocals will be performed by: Ira
Leighton. Matt Emkey, will also be performing on piano.

The event will also feature the exhibition of the PA Diversity Photo
Project - 150 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality in it's Berks
County premiere showing.

For tickets and info call: 610 375-8209 or email:
RB1502@aol.com. All proceeds benefit Reading Pride. Read more
about it on page 5.



AT LEFT - MUHLENBERG COLLEGE
GSA STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE
ON APRIL 18, NATIONAL
DAY OF SILENCE. SEE MORE PICTURES
& INFO ON THE PA DIVERSITY WEB SITE
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

**MAJOR RIGHTS BILLS
INTRODUCED IN
HARRISBURG & D.C.**
See more on pages 3,4&9.

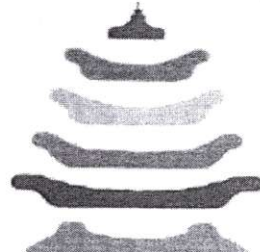
GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley

610-HELP-123

(610-435-7123)

Reading

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BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.



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SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



TOPPING CARRIE

When I was still living in Allentown I used to watch Sex in the City and see Carrie Bradshaw get together with her three best friends for lunch three times a week. I thought, wow that must be what it's like living in the city. Upon moving here I discovered that people do not have the time for that. Work takes up too much of one's day.

It was just down the street from my place of work that I accidentally stumbled across, The Gay Gotham Chorus. I used to sing in high school and thought it would be great to join a chorus.

Not to be confused with the New York Gay Men's Chorus, the Gay Gotham Chorus specializes in classical music. We have performed at some great venues in the past and on Saturday, June 2nd we will be performing at the historic St. Bartholomew's Church on the corner of 51st Street and Park Avenue. If you happen to be in New York for the weekend check us out. The concert begins at 7:30pm.

Joining the chorus has been a real growing experience for me. I enjoy the music, but I really enjoy the camaraderie. After rehearsal, twelve to fifteen of us walk across the street to an Irish pub for drinks. So if you do the math, I'm actually beating Ms. Bradshaw.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTER RUNS FOR LEHIGH COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Gloria Hamm, (mother of local GLBT activist Allyson Diane Hamm) is running for Lehigh County Commissioner. The local GLBT community may remember Gloria Hamm's volunteer support to fight the anti-GLBT petition effort to repeal Allentown's addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to the City anti-discrimination ordinance.

"She's a 30 yr. employee of LV Hospital with a Masters in Health Administration. So she would be ideal to work on County Human Services. She's currently President of Friends of Parkland Community Library & on the national Burn Prevention Foundation Board, and she's volunteered for PA-GALA & helped support my GLBT & civil rights activism in countless ways over the years. So I can safely say that she is the most GLBT supportive candidate for Commissioner & deserves your support," says Allyson Hamm, who adds that if you would like to be part of the Gloria Hamm campaign effort you can email Allyson at allysondiane@hotmail.com.

TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

BATTERIES IN THE KILLING MACHINE-- Written and performed by M.U.G.A.B.E.E. (Men Under Guidance Acting Before Early Extinction) A riveting tale of two brothers, Profit and Seed, told through Hip-Hop, Spoken Word, Soul music and film. May 2-5, www.touchstone.org.

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS' FESTIVAL-- The local students Young Playwrights' Festival showcases selected works from the Young Playwrights' Lab to be professionally produced by Touchstone, and staged at Zoellner Arts Center, at Lehigh University. Saturday, May 12, 7pm. For tickets or more info: dianne@touchstone.org, 610-867-1689.

FRESH VOICE-- Produced by Touchstone Theatre, Touchstone Theatre's annual class of Apprentices from our Professional Training Program exhibit original actor-created, ensemble-based works in progress. All shows: 8pm, Wednesday, May 23 - Saturday, May 26.

What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About?" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.

(This letter and the response have been edited for length. The full response can be found at: <http://imdb.com/board/bd0000044/nest/72746303?d=latest&t=20070425141609%23latest>)

Dear Liz, I need some information regarding marriage rights vs. civil union rights. I am a long standing member of the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) which is the world's largest movie website. They have hundreds of different message boards, one which is called the Soapbox, where anything is discussed, not just movies.

The subject of marriage vs. civil unions comes up frequently. Recently, there have been several gay people who have expressed the belief that civil unions are just as good as marriages for gay people because they offer the same benefits. I pointed out last week ...that there are many rights married people have that civil unions CANNOT provide. I was told I should enumerate these rights or not express my opinion. Since I really can't list (those rights), I am coming to you to ask if you can assist me.

Sincerely, Kathy Jameson

Dear Kathy, The two big differences between civil union and marriage are: #1 Civil union is not portable between states that do not have civil union...get a civil union in New Jersey and it means nothing in PA... And #2 Civil Union only grants the state rights in which it is issued not federal marriage rights...and there are 1138 US federal marriage rights!!!

The Categories of US Federal Marriage Rights include: Access to Military Spouse Support, Assumption of Spouse's Pension, Bereavement Leave, Immigration, Insurance Breaks, Medical Decisions on Behalf of Partner, Sick Leave to Care for Partner, Social Security Survivor Benefits, IRS Tax Breaks, Veteran's Discounts, Visitation of Partner in Hospital or Prison, The Right To Not Testify Against One's Spouse.

Each of these topics has dozens, if not hundreds of rights attached to it.

Consider for example, Social Security: Under federal law a married survivor gets Social Security benefits if their spouse dies. Civil Union grants zero Social Security benefits to the partner.

Immigration: If you can get legally married to a person from another country they can easily become a citizen of the United States. Civil union grants zero immigration rights because immigration is solely a federal issue.

Benefits: It's great that people who work in states that have civil union can now get health benefits when those benefits are extended to the spouses of employees. But there's still an unequal catch. While they get the benefits, the federal government taxes the employees for those benefits as though the value of those benefits was part of the employee's salary. That can easily cost \$1000 dollars a year. Legally married couples do not pay federal tax on spouse health benefits.

In the United States, Civil Union is a legal term that means state rights only and Civil Marriage is a legal term that means all the state and federal rights. They are not the same. If they were, they wouldn't have different names.

Still insist that civil union is the same as marriage? Just ask any opposite sex married couple in New Jersey if they would be willing to give up their marriage and just take the rights and label of civil union instead. Most wouldn't and with good reason...because civil union is not the same as civil marriage. It isn't even separate but equal.

Equal rights ... means all the same rights, not a separate water fountain and a separate classroom and a separate set of laws with a different name. **Best Wishes, Liz**

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino, havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uucvpa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

During the cold months GLOSS offers bowling, racquetball and Pinochle. The schedule is as follows:

Bowling: the 2nd Friday of the month, starting at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown.

Pinochle: the 2nd Saturday of the month, starting at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 N. 10th St., Allentown.

Racquetball: every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the Allentown Racquet Club.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

GLOSS AT THE WOODS

GLOSS has reserved 4 campsites at The Woods Campground for the "Summer Games" weekend. They are sites 69 thru 72. If you would like to share these sites, please let GLOSS know ASAP by emailing Info@gloss.org. This event takes place 27-29 July, 2007. Here's the description: "Show your ability and teamwork in the Wacky Olympics competition, volleyball tournament, and Homemade Raft Race on the lake! Prizes for the winning athletes! Show off your athletic physique. The Woods Campground is clothing optional."

LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS RESOURCE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

ENDA INTRODUCED

The federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would protect against workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, was proposed to Congress on April 24. The measure was introduced by Reps. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Deborah Pryce (R-Ohio), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Chris Shays (R-Conn.). If passed, ENDA would provide legal recourse to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the 33 states that don't currently have employment nondiscrimination laws that cover sexual orientation and to transgender people in the 42 states that do not provide protection on the basis of gender identity or expression.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

ALVIN H. BUTZ PRESENTS BETTY BUCKLEY AT CIVIC

Broadway star Betty Buckley will perform live in concert at Civic Theatre of Allentown, Friday, May 18, in a special Civic fundraising event. The legendary star of stage, film, and television, made famous by the Broadway favorite "Memory" from the hit musical "Cats," will take the Civic Theatre stage at 8 p.m.

Alvin H. Butz, Inc., presents the special event, which will help raise capital funds to renovate Civic's 1928 art deco 19th Street Theatre.

Benefactor tickets, priced at \$150, will include priority seating and an event reception following the concert. Regular admission is \$75 are available online at civictheatre.com or from the Civic Theatre box office at (610) 432-8943.

NEW PLAY FROM OMICRON

From the creative team that brought you last Fall's "Shakespeare's R&J", The Omicron Theatre Project presents the World Premiere of J.C. Lee's newest play "The Nature Line" at the Theatre Outlet in Allentown, PA. Production Dates: August 16th - Sept. 1st. For all the latest information about this production or how you can get involved, please visit Omicron's Official Website: www.geocities.com/omicrontheatreproject! Mark your calendars, this is an event not to be missed!

PFLAG PICNIC SATURDAY, JUNE 23

PFLAG will hold its annual picnic at the home of Don and Melinda Kohn. The entire GLBT and allies family is welcome. 1:00pm to 6:00 pm. Please bring something to share. RSVP to Don and Melinda to indicate what you want to bring and they will give you directions. 610-967-5219 or info@Eastern-PA-PFLAG.org

MUHLENBERG GSA JOINS GENDERYOUTH

Muhlenberg College's GSA has officially affiliated with the GenderYOUTH Network. Muhlenberg GSA is the 2nd new chapter in 2007, bringing the GenderYOUTH network to 57 Chapters in 28 States. The GenderYOUTH Network empowers youth leaders to build safer classrooms and communities where all youth can learn, grow and succeed, whether or not they conform to expectations for masculinity and femininity. For more info: WWW.GENDERYOUTH.ORG

ALLEN GSA YARD SALE

William Allen High School's Gay Straight Alliance seeks donations of yard sale items for its annual sale at Lehigh Valley PRIDE festival in August. Items may include, but not be limited to, books, kitchenware, clothes, toys, tools, working electronics and small appliances. Contact advisor Rachel Zane to arrange pick up/drop off, before August 1 at zane@allentownsd.org or 610-393-4728 after 3:30 pm only. Thank you for your donations!

HAVEN'S PRISM PROM

HAVEN's annual Prism Prom will be held from 7 to 11 PM on Saturday, May 5 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, in Bethlehem. This year's theme is "Alice in Wonderland." This discrimination-free alternative to the traditional high school prom is open to all gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and allied youth ages 14-20 - as is HAVEN.

To volunteer assistance or make a donation contact Pete Pellegrino: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit HAVEN's web page at www.uucvpa.org/haven. For more prom information check www.prizmprom.com.

"Be who you are and say what you feel, Because those who mind don't matter, And those who matter won't mind."

- Dr. Seuss

GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: \$10 per household, annually. Web site: <http://glora.1colony.com> email: GLORA@dejazzd.com or write: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435.

DON'T MISS READING PRIDE'S UPCOMING FUNDRAISER ON MAY 20 AND READING'S PRIDE FESTIVAL - JULY 15
SEE MORE ON PAGE 5

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com. Meeting Dates: Allentown - May 1, June 5, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4. Monroe - June 20, September 19, December 19. Reading - May 15, September 18, October 16, November 20.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30, PM on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

BCGMSG holds social events for singles and couples two to three times a month for gay men from Berks County and surrounding counties. For more info email berksgmsg@aol.com, web site at: WWW.BERKSGMSG.COM.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading medial center.

Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS RESOURCE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

SYLVIA COMICS

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! For more check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

PDN LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 28 - GLBT Art Show opening, with PDN Photo Show at Gabellini Design

April 28 - May 19 - PDN Photo Project will be at Gabellini Design

May 20 - Fundraiser for Reading Pride at the Stirling Guest Hotel in Reading, PA. The PDN Photo Project will be featured at this event.

July 15, 2007 - PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Pride Festival.

August 19 - PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Festival.

Mid October, 2007 -- Bingo! The Community had a great time at our Bingo event in 2006 and we'll be doing it again in 2007. If you represent a business, please consider donating a Bingo prize.

October 13, 2007-- PDN will have a team in the Woman's 5k Race to fight Breast Cancer, and will host a brunch afterward at the PDN offices. All women in the GLBTA community are encouraged to participate. You know you've been meaning to do this for years...Be on our team and we'll make it easy and fun for you to do.

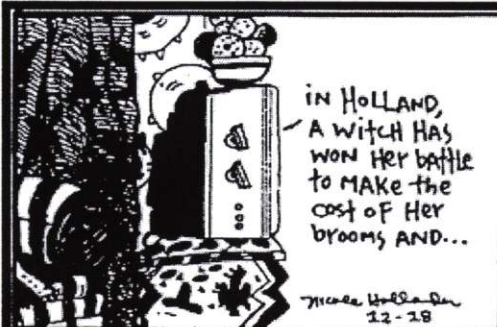
16,17,18 November -- PDN Holiday Art Show at the PDN Gallery in Allentown

Mid December 2007 -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party for GLBTA families with children. This event is co-sponsored by MCCLV and will be held at the Church.

A PRIDE OF THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY BENEFIT

Sunday, May 6 at 10pm. DREAMGIRLS-A Tribute to BIG, BOLD & SASSY! \$7 admission, ages 21+ only. The Stonewall is providing those who attend an excellent hors d'oeuvres selection with admission as well as drink specials during the evening for those Pride supporters. Stonewall Mooselounge Bar & Grille 28 N. 10th Street, Allentown.

THE FEDERAL HATE CRIMES BILL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN WASHINGTON



SOOZ VIEWS ⁵

BOBBY

By Sue Sneeringer

I woke up, startled, my sister, Pat, standing over me. "They shot him," she said. "Shot who?" "Bobby," she replied, in an almost matter of fact tone. But I knew my sister. On that June morning in 1968, I sensed that she was as stunned and scared at this news as I was.

Bobby, the 2006 film written and directed by Emilio Estevez, is now out on DVD. It introduces a multitude of characters present at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 4, 1968. The critical consensus on the film is that it is a valiant effort hampered by an average screenplay. I would agree. But the film still succeeds, if for no other reason than that it takes us back to what many feel was a watershed event in the nation's history while it paints a portrait of ordinary people living in turbulent times, each affected by the shooting. Estevez' direction is good. The performances are, too.

Historical dramas are difficult to manage, especially when a sizeable portion of the population remembers the event and many survive who were present when it actually happened. I was only fourteen in 1968, but if I wasn't already beginning to forge my own political views, Vietnam, domestic assassinations and the riotous Democratic convention in Chicago would have set me on that course. In subsequent years, I've made some study of RFK and concluded that the decades of public service that forged his character made him inherently qualified to lead and that the path of his public life propelled him to a deep personal and spiritual transformation by 1968. One can only wonder where this devout Catholic would have stood on issues facing our community and it is easy to romanticize him as the one who could have united us all, but when his voice echoes throughout Bobby and we hear his own words, I'm compelled to at least beg this question...where is the leader of today who is even remotely attempting that kind of conversation with the voters of this nation and in such poetic terms?

Pat is just eleven months older than I. She shares a birthday with Ronald Reagan and I always tease her about that because she detests the legacy of Reagan almost as much as I do. Lots of people paint him as our last great national leader. Count me out there. I think our last great national leader was gunned down before he had a chance to really lead us. Charisma is a dangerous thing in politics. "Bobby" Kennedy certainly possessed that. But cynicism is the greater danger, I think, and in taking me back to 1968 the film brings to mind another great RFK quote, "Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say, why not." Both Pat and I cling to the hope that someone will rise up among us now to claim his legacy and lead us all to a better time.

MUHLENBERG SUMMER MUSIC THEATRE 2007

www.summerbroadway.org -- Tickets: 484-664-3333 / Email group requests: boxoffice@muhlenberg.edu

Schedule:

Nunsense - June 13 - July 1.
Fiddler on the Roof - July 11 - 29.
Pump Boys & Dinettes - July 25 - August 12.
The Emperor's New Clothes - June 13 - July 1.
Weekly performances: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. - Saturday at 10 a.m. only

"BRICKS" @ YORK LITTLE THEATRE

York Little Theatre has selected Bricks by Susan E. Sneeringer for its 2007 Pennsylvania Original Play presentation, scheduled for June 15-17 and 21-24. A workshop production of Bricks was staged at Theatre Outlet in Allentown in 2003 under the direction of William Sanders and is the story of hate crimes in a small Pennsylvania town.

YLT presented its first original competitive Pennsylvania play in October 1988. The competition has been held almost every year since, generally receiving 20-40 scripts annually. To be considered, non-musical works must be written by a Pennsylvania playwright.

YLT is a community not-for-profit theatre soon to enter its 75th anniversary, established in 1933. Tony Elliot is currently serving as Director of Dramatics at Millersville University and will once again direct the PA Original Play. For more information on the production, visit www.ylt.org or call the YLT box office at (717)854-5715.

READING PRIDE FUNDRAISER AT THE STIRLING - MAY 20

Reading Pride presents - An Evening at Stirling: A Celebration of Pride and Diversity on May 20, at the Stirling Guest Hotel, 1120 Centre Avenue in Reading, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The event will feature food and drink, to be followed by a concert given by: Danny Coldren, a pianist who is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and had his Weil recital debut at Carnegie Hall in 1996. Vocals will be performed by: Ira Leighton, a graduate of Mansfield University. Matt Emkey, also performing on piano, is the featured organist for the Germantown United Methodist Church and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Reading Pride is extremely happy to have Liz Bradbury, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Diversity Network (PDN) who will be presenting the Berks County debut of the PDN Photo Project: 100 Same Sex Couples Facing Inequality on exhibition at the event. Same-sex Couples wishing to participate in the Photo Project will be able to have their pictures taken at the event. For more information about the Photo Project see www.padiversity.org.

This is a fundraiser event for Reading Pride to support the Reading Pride Festival on July 15. Ticket price for the event is \$25.00. For tickets and info call: 610 375-8209 or email: RB1502@aol.com. All proceeds benefit Reading Pride.

For information on the Reading Pride Festival, or to help with the planning of the festival email: readingpride@gmail.com.

Organizational meetings now being held every 2 weeks. Next meeting on May 14th at Canal Street Pub, 535 Canal St, Reading @ 7:00 pm.

THEATRE OUTLET YARDSALE

ITEMS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE THEATRE OUTLET'S 4TH ANNUAL HUGE FUNDRAISING YARDSALE! ITEMS TAX DEDUCTIBLE!! Which will be 1503 West Hamilton Street/ the corner of 15th and Hamilton Streets Fri, Sat, Sun May 18, 19 & 20, 9:00am, Fri and Sat, 11:00 Sun. To donate items or to volunteer call The Theatre Outlet - 610.820.9270. Pick-up service can be arranged for large items or quantity.

VOLUNTEER 10 hours helping to organize the sale and, after the sale is set up on Thursday, 17 May, you can pre-shop.

DON'T FORGET: GLV PRIDE WILL BE AUGUST 19

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- see FACT

ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group - singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS - Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahoo.com.

Enigma Players - qacres@prolog.net

equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine - www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info @ gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE - GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave UUCLV@yahoo.com, www.uucvpa.org 610-866-7652

LVGMC - Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mccclv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519

Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Reading PRIDE

22 GLOSS MCC

29 WDIY HMFF MCC

MAY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 LVGMC LV PFLAG NO PLACE FOR HATE	2 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	3 RAA GLOSS TOUCHSTONE	4 TOUCHSTONE CIVIC OZ CIVIC OZ	5 PRIZM PRO
6 GLOSS UUCV GLV PRIDE BEN	7 RAA	8 LVGMC	9 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	10 RAA GLOSS	11	12 GLOSS WDIY TOUCHSTONE
13 WDIY GLOSS MCC HMFF	14 RAA	15 LVGMC R PFLAG ELECTION DAY	16 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	17 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	18 BETTY BUCKLEY AT CIVIC	19 WDIY GLOSS TO YARDSALE
20 Interweave Reading PRIDE Fundraiser PDN Photo Project	21 RAA	22 LVGMC	23 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	24 RAA GLOSS TOUCHSTONE	25 TOUCHSTONE	26 WDIY GLOSS
27 GLOSS MCC HMFF UUCV	28 RAA	29 LVGMC	30 HAVEN SPECTRUM	31 GLOSS RAA		

JUNE 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 GMCHORUS CONC	2 GLOSS WDIY
3	4 RAA 19th St. Movie	5 LV PFLAG LVGMC	6 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	7 GLOSS RAA MCC FILM	8	9 WDIY GLOSS
10 UUCV GLOSS MCC	11 RAA	12 LVGMC	13 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	14 RAA GLOSS MCC FILM	15 Bricks	16 GLOSS WDIY Bricks
17 Interweave Gloss MCC Bricks	18 RAA	19 R PFLAG LVGMC	20 HAVEN SPECTRUM M PFLAG TEJAS	21 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG MCC FILM	22 Bricks	23 GLOSS WDIY PFLAG PICNIC
24 MCC Bricks	25 RAA	26 LVGMC	27 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	28 GLOSS RAA 19th St. Movie MCC FILM	29	30 GLOSS WDIY

JULY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC HMFF GLOSS WDIY	2 RAA	3 LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 SPECTRUM HAVEN TEJAS	5 RAA GLOSS MCC FILM	6	7 GLOSS WDIY
8 WDIY UUCV HMFF	9 RAA	10 LVGMC	11 SPECTRUM TEJAS	12 RAA GLOSS MCC FILM	13	14 GLOSS WDIY
15 GLOSS WDIY UUCV MCC HMFF	16 RAA	17 R PFLAG LVGMC	18 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM	19 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	20	21 WDIY GLOSS
22 GLOSS UUCV Interweave MCC	23 RAA	24 LVGMC	25 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	26 RAA GLOSS	27 GLOSS@WOODS	28 WDIY GLOSS
29 WDIY HMFF MCC	30 RAA	31				

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~instpsa/whatsa.htm
QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College
Quakers - Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting - Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donnearlucas@msn.com

Ren - Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG - 610-967-5219

Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coaldeale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet, Allentown, 610-820-9270.

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902

Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm, 8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
BERKS GSA - 2ND MONS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
MCCLV TEAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS
LV HAVEN - WEDS
READING SPECTRUM - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
JAN, MAR, JUN SEPT, DEC ONLY
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT
GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI
GLOSS PINOCCHIO - 2ND SAT
RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
MCCLV MENS GRP - SUN

MAY 1 - NO PLACE FOR HATE
MAY 2-5 - TOUCHSTONE
MAY 3-5 - CIVIC DOES OZE
MAY 5 - HAVEN PROM
MAY 6 - GLV PRIDE BENEFIT
MAY 12 - TOUCHSTONE
MAY 15 - ELECTION DAY
MAY 18 - BETTY BUCKLEY @ CIVC
MAY 18, 19, 20 - TO YARD SALE
MAY 20 - READING FUNDRAISER
MAY 23-26 - TOUCHSTONE
JUN 2 - LVGMC CONCERT
JUN 7 - MCC FILM SERIES
JUN 14 - MCC FILM SERIES
JUN 13-17 - BRICKS
JUN 20 - MONROE PFLAG
JUN 23 - PFLAG PICNIC
JUN 21 - MCC FILM SERIES
JUN 28 - MCC FILM SERIES
JUL 5 - MCC FILM SERIES
JUL 12 - MCC FILM SERIES
JUL 15 - READING PRIDE
JUL 27-29 - GLOSS WKEND
AUG 16 - SEPT 1 - OMICRON @ TO
AUG 19 - GLV PRIDE
SEPT 9 - FACT SUMMER GAMES
OCT 7 - FACT AIDS WALK
NOV 16-18 - PDN ART SHOW
DEC 3 - FACT SNOWBALL
INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

MCC FILM SERIES

Metropolitan Community Church Summer Film Series at MCCLV: Female Spiritual Heroes, 7 p.m. Thursdays at the church, facilitated by MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy.

For more information, e-mail rev.goudy@mcclv.org or call the church at 610-709-8800

Film Schedule:

June 7: Spiritual Hero: Queen Elizabeth I, Movie Title: "Elizabeth."

June 14: Spiritual Hero: Joan of Arc, Movie Title: "Joan of Arc."

June 21: Spiritual Hero: Anne Frank, "Anne Frank: The Whole Story."

June 28: Spiritual Heroes: Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, Movie Title: "4 Little Girls."

July 5: Spiritual Hero: Mother Theresa, "Mother Theresa: A & E Biography."

July 12: Spiritual Hero: Rosa Parks, Movie Title: "The Rosa Parks Story."

ALLENTOWN POLICE SEEKS RECRUITMENT DIVERSITY

Assistant Chief of Allentown Police David Howells, Jr. has asked VGP to feature an article about current police recruitment.

Starting salary: 41k, exceptional benefits and pension plan. Applicants must be: US citizen, 21 years old, have a HS diploma or GED. Application fee \$50. Must pass oral, written and physical fitness tests and have a valid driver's license. Applications and further information may be obtained from Allentown's Human Resources Department. Applications due by May 15.

The City of Allentown is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer which does not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, age, or disability.

MCCLV EASTER SERVICE

MCCLV's Easter Sunday services on April 8 were a celebration of resurrection, renewal and re-creation, with over 150 people gathered at the church for worship. MCCLV's Tejas Women's Group sponsored a pre-service Easter Egg Hunt, with 13 children participating and a special Kid's Breakfast. At the AM service, MCCLV's Choir led the congregation in song, accompanied by piano, organ and drums, while the PM service featured hymns from Chalice Hymnal with piano. Sermons centered on Luke 24.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

MOTHER'S DAY

It's been 14 years since my mother passed away at the age of 49. It's been that long since I purchased a mother's day card for my mother. I miss buying gifts and cards for her. There have been many women in my life who have had a motherly influence over me but there will never be another Janet Libby. This is my tribute to her.

After a long battle with rheumatic fever, Janet Barbour's parents were told she would not live past the age of 16. She developed early onset advanced rheumatoid arthritis and all the complications that accompany that diagnosis. She used crutches to approach the podium at her graduation. The congregation in this small community stood and cheered. She was bound for a business school in Portland, ME.

Janet had dated my father, Tom, in high school and he pursued her over the 250 miles that separated them. They married a few months after her 19th birthday. She was embarrassed by her crooked fingers and wore gloves at the wedding. I was born exactly nine months later. Two daughters would follow.

Her friend Linda said at her funeral, "I don't know why the doctors couldn't bottle those pregnancy hormones and give them to Jan every day. She always felt her best when she was pregnant. It's a great gift you kids gave her."

From her mid-twenties into her early thirties mom had both hips replaced (one twice) as well as both knees. She attempted every arthritis "remedy" going, from acupuncture to herbal medicines. Doctors prescribed pain killers and my grandmother said we'd never be able to understand the pain that mom dealt with on a daily basis. Through all the discomfort mom supported my sisters and me by driving us to all our school functions and attending all the extra curricular events we chose to be involved in. She was full of energy and determination. Nothing was going to keep her from going out. You could barely see this 5' spitfire when she was bombing around the island driving one of my dad's work vehicles, typically a van or pickup truck. A party girl, she insisted I leave the island and "go find the lights of the cities."

After we graduated high school mom got a job as bookkeeper at the local weekly newspaper. More complications from the arthritis followed. The weight of her skull became too great for her spine and she was fitted with an apparatus called a halo. After this she was reluctant to go out in public. An infection that left her in ICU for a week, brought more pain and she tried to talk us into assisting in her death. Her first grandson shone some much needed sunshine into her life and she seemed at peace lying with him on the sofa while my sister worked. While decorating a Christmas tree she fell and jarred the halo loose.

We all sat vigil at her hospital bedside when she passed. She loved Halloween, Christmas and any time that brought laughter, music, children, dancing and singing. She taught me my love for life and to try to see the best in people. She was a great mother. She was my hero. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. I miss celebrating Mother's Day with her. But, I celebrate her life every day. Thanks for letting me share this with you. Now, call your mother and tell her that you love her.



by Earl and Donnie Snyder

PA FAMILY EASTER AT MCCLV

As one of the most celebrated Christian holidays worldwide it is not surprising that Easter has also become a special day for kids. At ages too young to understand the true meaning of the Easter celebration, children instead associate the holiday with bunnies, eggs, and candy. As Christian children grow older they will learn of the Resurrection that Easter commemorates, assuming that they are raised in a household that fosters Christian education or has access to a church that does. The latter may be a somewhat difficult for the GLBT family as many GLBT people have found themselves without a church. Some do not feel comfortable in church due to a negative past experience, others may have been told they are not worthy to attend a church as a GLBT person and others may have been ostracized by fellow congregants.

This is not the case at the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley (MCCLV) in Allentown MCCLV is a Christian church that welcomes all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and their children and has been implementing more programming for the children of the congregation.

One such event was the children's Easter celebration held at the church. It merged the fun of hunting for Easter eggs with the fellowship of a children's breakfast, and an Easter service afterwards for all. Including our son, Lucas, there were about thirteen children who hunted for eggs. After all the eggs were found everyone had worked up an appetite and the church provided a nice breakfast for the children, who all sat around one big table. They were all amazingly well behaved. The parents had their own special breakfast treats and they were all well behaved too.

Everyone present, gay dads, lesbian moms, boys and girls of different ages and races, all enjoyed breakfast together, and then a worship service. All of the families were welcomed and accepted for exactly who they were. It was a wonderful Easter at MCCLV. There was only one thing missing...the darned Easter Bunny. Thank goodness!

With certainty we can say that Lucas didn't miss him /her one bit. We didn't miss the trauma associated with trying to get our child to smile while in the clutches of a demented bunny with the head the size of a beach ball. Or even worse, the long wait in line for the overpriced snapshot of our child crying...again. Thank you, MCCLV for the wonderful children's Easter celebration and for banishing that bunny, at least for this year.



**PLANET PARENTHOOD COLUMNISTS
DONNIE AND EARL SNYDER, LEAD
RAINBOW FAMILIES, THE GROUP FOR
GLBTA FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN. READ
ABOUT IT IN THE RAINBOW FAMILIES
SECTION OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.**

**DON'T FORGET LEHIGH VALLEYPRIDE IN
THE PARK FESTIVAL WILL BE ON AUGUST 19.**

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner and I continue to battle over purchasing a home or continuing to rent our apartment. Could you lay out the fees associated? **Signed, In a Quandary**
Dear Q, In many ways, buying a house is similar to buying a car: you shop, you decide, you make an offer, you get a loan, you drive away. Yes, it is almost the same situation with a house, except you can't drive away the house. (Mobile homes excluded.) One big difference is that there are "closing costs" that the buyer must pay.

Here's a general estimate (for guidance only) based upon the following criteria: Purchase price \$300,000 = 10% down \$30,000, 90% loan: \$270,000. Other monies due before or at the act of sale are allocated for: Insurance: \$800. Appraisal: \$300-\$600. Credit Report: \$75-\$100. Attorney Fees: \$300-\$400. Land Survey: \$125. Flood Evaluation Survey: \$75. Title Insurance: \$250-\$300. Miscellaneous costs: \$225. Origination Fee and Points: varies according to your choices. Taxes: varies according to location

Worst case scenario is that you sell the house. You may take a beating, depending on the market and interest rates, but you may not. If you always do what you have always done, you can't expect the outcome to be any different. However, don't feel pressured if it is not right for you. It is not the right thing for everyone.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc located at 1045 S Cedar Crest Blvd Allentown. E-mail denise.m.mckelvey@ampf.com Phone 610.439.7000

FROM EARL BALL TO MCALL PUBLISHED APRIL 15, BUT MUCH OF IT WAS CUT. HERE'S THE FULL LETTER

Dear Editor, An April 10 letter, "A proposal for handling the issue of gays in the (Episcopal) church," calls upon such gays to "be discreet." Clearly from the context of this letter, "discreet" is a code word for 'shut-up,' 'stay in the closet,' 'don't dare affirm (especially in church) that you too (as a gay or lesbian Episcopalian) are a worthy child of God.'

I find the writer's words "handling the issue of gays" quite revealing - as though 'gays' are the 'problem' which needs to be 'handled' by the church. In my opinion, the real problem which needs to be 'handled' is the prejudice and heterosexism of many churches against gays and lesbians - the scapegoating of gays rather than facing their very unChristlike prejudice and exclusionary tactics.

The letter points to the Bible as clearly denouncing homosexuality as "wrong." Certainly a great many Christians would disagree. There is total silence on this issue in the Gospels. Among the Bible's 31,173 verses, there are less than a dozen verses that mention sexual acts between men, and possibly only one that mentions sex between women. Jesus himself is recorded as having said nothing about homosexuality. Nothing! Obviously this topic was not of great concern to biblical writers.

The very few passages that seem to denounce homosexuality derive from questionable interpretations of the original Hebrew and Greek. These passages need to be understood, of course, in terms of their ancient cultural/historical contexts and contemporary biases. Biblical writers had no concept of sexual orientation or sexual development as we understand it today. Even the word "homosexual" is a modern term that did not exist during biblical times.

I applaud the Episcopal Church as it follows Christ's example of welcome and unconditional love for all people - especially those who continue to be marginalized and discriminated against in society and in most of our so-called 'welcoming' churches. Rev. Earl David Ball, Easton, PA

GABELLINI ART SHOW EVENT

The show and opening reception to benefit PA Diversity Network will feature the PDN Photo Show -100-Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality and these GLBT community artists:

Elizabeth Patterson -- will be exhibiting limited edition signed prints of her original colored pencil drawings.

Liz Bradbury -- will be presenting a new series of box framed erotic images with assemblage found-object elements.

Dianne Poindexter -- brings to the show oil paintings from her latest series featuring vivid imagery of the Amalfi Coast highlighting the rich and vibrant colors of the Mediterranean Sea.

Rafael Canizares -- makes hand-coiled and wheel thrown clay vessels. His work for this show is part of a new series.

Peter Lewnes -- brings to the show glass pieces created in the Swedish technique of *graal* which uses different color overlays that are sandblasted and further hotworked.

Karl Howard -- creates representational and nonrepresentational wire sculpture, occasionally using found objects to enhance forms.

You can read more about these artists at the PDN web site at: www.padiversity.org in the "Current Events" section - click on "More information about show artists".

FROM: PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE (PA-GALA) GLBT CIVIL RIGHTS BILL INTRODUCED IN PA STATE SENATE

21 SENATORS CO-SPONSOR LEGISLATION

State Senator Pat Browne, a Republican representing the 16th District based in the Lehigh Valley, has introduced the LGBT Civil Rights Bill. The Bill, SB 761, seeks to amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations. Twenty other Senators joined Senator Browne by co-sponsoring the legislation. In total the bill has 3 Republican sponsors and 18 Democratic sponsors.

"The Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance has made passage of an LGBT Civil Rights Bill our legislative priority for 2007 and 2008," stated Steve Black, Political Director of the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA). "PA-GALA looks forward to working closely with Senator Browne and his staff, as well as, Stacey Sobel from Equality Advocates Pennsylvania; Larry Frankel from the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania; and, Stephen Glassman Chairman of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to pass this legislation" added Black.

Currently 13 municipalities in PA prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations - including the Counties of Philadelphia and Erie, the Cities of Allentown, Easton, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, Scranton and York; the Boroughs of Lansdowne, Swarthmore, New Hope & West Chester. State College prohibits discrimination in area of housing only.

"A statewide law is needed to protect all LGBT Pennsylvanians from discrimination," stated Black. Visit www.pa-gala.org to determine your state senate district!

Complete list of State Senators co-sponsoring the LGBT Civil Rights Bill (SB 761): Pat Browne - R - 16th District, Prime Sponsor. Charles McIlhinney - R - 10th District, Edwin "Ted" Erickson - R - 26th District, Vincent Fumo - D - 1st District, Tina Tartaglione - D - 2nd District, Shirley Kitchen - D - 3rd District, Leanna Washington - D - 4th District, Mike Stack - D - 5th District, Vincent Hughes - D - 7th District, Anthony Williams - D - 8th District, Michael O'Pake - D - 11th District, Connie Williams - D - 17th District, Lisa Boscola - D - 18th District, Andrew Dinniman - D - 19th District, Robert Mellow - D - 22nd District, John Wozniak - D - 35th District, Jim Ferlo - D - 38th District, Wayne Fontana - D - 42nd District, Jay Costa - D - 43rd District, Barry Stout - D - 46th District, Gerald LaValle - D - 47th District.

NO PLACE FOR HATE DAY

The Allentown Human Relations Commission in collaboration with the Anti Defamation League and the Allentown YMCA & YWCA, invites you to a presentation and dialogue about positive and constructive human relations in Allentown. When/Cuando: MAY 1, 2007, Breakfast 7:30am, Program 8am - 9am. Where/Donde: Allentown YMCA & YWCA (2nd floor Auditorium) 425 South 15th St.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCV)

-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCV

Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown

Most Libraries in Berks County

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County), Berks -

Reading GSA

Allen HS GSA, **Reading HS GSA**, **Gov Mifflin HS GSA**

Wilson High School GSA, **Berks AIDS Network**

Berks Mens Social Group, **Kutztown University**

GLBT Center

Reading Area Community College GSA

48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown

Fountainhead Books -- 641 Penn Ave. West Reading

Dreamscape Comics -- 310 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St, Reading

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle begins in January. Circulation: 1300-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP.

Some restrictions apply.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Name/s _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5

☐ Individual dues \$15

☐ Family dues \$20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution
Make checks payable to PDN.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES. Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a 2007 subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 100 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2007 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR PDN
DUES ON LINE! JUST GO TO
"MEMBERSHIP" AT
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG
IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

DAN ANDERS NOMINATED FOR JUDGE

Governor Edward Rendell has nominated openly gay attorney Dan Anders to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas to fill the vacancy created when Justice James J. Fitzgerald III was elevated to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Anders is an attorney with the Philadelphia office of Pepper Hamilton LLP.

Dan Anders was the attorney who helped PA-GALA successfully fight the petition for a referendum to remove Allentown's addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to Allentown's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance. He also led the successful legal team that represented the City against the anti-GLBT lawsuit to overturn the Ordinance.

"I am honored and humbled to receive this nomination from Governor Rendell," said Anders. "It will be an opportunity to serve the people of Philadelphia in a significant way and to assist in the delivery of justice in our courts." Anders' nomination is subject to confirmation by the State Senate of Pennsylvania.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



LIZ OUT LOUD[®] 11

PA DIVERSITY VERIFIED *By Liz Bradbury*

Last month PA Diversity Network (PDN) received an email from someone who thought we should remove one of the PDN web site resource listings.

Have you had a chance to check out the PDN web site? There are over 250 GLBT-friendly local resources. But more significantly, PDN has a

special rating: PA Diversity Verified GLBT-Friendly for over 150 of the listings. This is not a certification of a particular provider's skill, rather it's a label to identify those service providers, organizations and businesses recommended by "out" GLBT people in the community (usually someone on the PDN Board or a local community leader) who were satisfied consumers.

After all, anybody can say they are GLBT-friendly, especially when drumming up business. But if you're looking for, say...a doctor, therapist or a lawyer, you may want to be sure that other GLBT people have used these professionals, been out to them, and found their services to be fair and appropriate.

So back to the complaint we received. A local lesbian was looking for a travel agency. She found our resource list of agencies and went to one that was PA Diversity Verified GLBT-Friendly. Unfortunately the particular agent who had been verified, was no longer at that agency.

The lesbian traveler decided to work with the agency anyway. She asked an agent for some information on tropical resorts where she and her partner could feel comfortable as a lesbian couple. The agent recommended a "Sandals" resort. Kind of a shocker, since Sandals has a bad reputation with the GLBT community from banning same-sex couples from some of their resorts for many years. And when Sandals finally ended the ban, they did nothing to atone for their bigotry...kind of like Cracker Barrel.

When the lesbian traveler mentioned this to the agent, the agent said -- "Well, it's OK, because in 2003 they started letting gays go there."

That Sandals is finally willing to take our money now, was not exactly a welcoming and affirming endorsement.

When the lesbian traveler contacted me with this story, I told her I'd check into it. I called the agent directly and left a clear message on her personal phone. I told her there was a concern about their GLBT friendly listing and I wanted to get it cleared up. Guess what, she never called back.

With full support from the PDN board I removed that businesses listing from our web site. After all, while PDN has a commitment to list resources that out community members find supportive, we also have a commitment to investigate listings that out community members find lacking in support, and to remove those listings when there is a problem. Luckily, that doesn't happen too often.

It's easy to list your business, group or organization. Just go to the PDN web site (www.padiversity.org) and fill out the resource form. You can also add to or correct your listing. We've added 25 new resources in the last two months. Listing is free. Thousands look at the site every month. And if you ever have a problem with a listing, be sure to let us know.

CIVIC DOES OZ

Civic Theatre presents The Wizard of Oz directed by Civic Resident Company Member Noah Herman, featuring a 55-member cast comprised entirely of Civic Theatre School students. Friday, April 27, at 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 28, at 1 p.m.; Thursday, May 3, at 6 p.m.; Friday, May 4, at 6 p.m.; and Saturday, May 5, at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$6 for students, seniors and children. Group rates are available.

TRISH'S COLUMN[®]

By Patricia Sullivan

MORE ON SOULFORCE AND MY ALMA MATER

On April 11th Soulforce Equality Riders visited Montreat a Presbyterian College in NC. Here is the President's response to my letter (in last month's column) about my alma mater and the Soulforce visit:

-- I agree that segregation based on race is intolerable. Still today we are living with the consequences of such attitudes and behavior. I pray and act regularly today to make sure that Montreat College does not do such things today.

Likewise, I am saddened to hear that you have been treated poorly at the hands of Christians and others. We believe that all are made in the image of God, and that we Christians should act in a Christ-like manner. I am sorry that you were turned from religion while here at Montreat College. We all need community to sustain and support us. I hope you will find a church in which your Christian walk can be supported.

We do believe that the Bible is very clear on God's plan for human sexuality, but we do not ask the question or discriminate based on someone's "sexual orientation." We do, however, have standards of behavior to which students are expected to comply. Sexual activity outside of marriage (regardless of type) is not considered helpful to attaining a college degree or to promoting healthy relationships in the residence halls (where there are no married students). Please be assured that we will do our utmost to welcome the riders and welcome them in the name of Jesus Christ. I have asked our whole community to demonstrate the love of Christ as Paul relates in 1 Corinthians 13, and the fruit of the Spirit he describes in Galatians 5:22-23.--

Forty-four years after leaving the Montreat campus, the message is the same - we don't accept you, maybe you can find a church that will. The patriarchal tenet that a woman submit to a man as the "church submits to Christ" is just not an option for a lesbian and churches choose not to marry gay men and lesbians of faith. And, while it is apparent the college recognizes racism is wrong now, they accept no responsibility for their past racist actions. Are we surprised? Of course not.

So, what happened with the Equality Riders? Montreat was one of only three out of thirty-two Christian colleges who allowed Soulforce volunteers on a campus to speak with students.

As was my experience at Montreat, the students are far more progressive than the faculty. Although some students were unhappy about the Soulforce visit, most of the interactions with students were positive. On the other hand, several members of the girls' softball team who had advocated for Soulforce found the school had changed their team's schedule sending them away while Soulforce was on campus. And following presentations by the Equality Riders on spiritual violence and how the spoken word can lead to physical and emotional violence, a faculty member selected to respond, read a paper he wrote suggesting GLBT people are unrepentant and should be disciplined or excommunicated from the church.

Because of the Soulforce visit, students, who had been taught and believed that Christianity and homosexuality are mutually exclusive, had the opportunity to meet and talk with GLBT Christians and hear first hand how spiritual violence effected their lives. If change is going to happen in religious institutions it will come from the efforts of people of faith within those institutions and at large. That change is the mission of Soulforce and I respect and admire their work. To learn more about Soulforce and the Equality Riders go to www.Soulforce.org.



PRIDE GUIDE

Greater Lehigh Valley's annual Pride Guide publication is now accepting ads. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2007. For full information contact info@prideglv.org or 610-770-6200. Information and reservation forms will also be available shortly at www.prideglv.org.

POP QUIZ 12

1. Of the top Fortune 50 companies what % ban discrimination on sexual orientation? A. 22 B. 48 C. 69 D. 98
2. Of the top Fortune 50 what % ban discrimination on gender identity? A. 22 B. 48 C. 69 D. 98
3. Cindy Lauper's "True Colors" tour to benefit HRC will be MCed by: A. Kate Clinton B. Rosie O'Donnell C. Suzanne Westenhoffer D. Margaret Cho
4. What will be the next US State to pass Civil Union? A. CA B. WA C. NH D. DE
5. Ellen's coming out episode was ___ years ago: A. 12 B. 10 C. 7 D. 5
6. Laura Dern, who kissed Ellen in the coming out episode, recently told Ellen that she was not able to get work after the episode for ___ months. A. 3 B. 6 C. 9 D. 12
7. In 19___ the American Psychiatric Association announced that homosexuality would no longer be considered an illness? A. 73 B. 79 C. 81 D. 92
8. The 1977 All in the Family Episode, "Edith's Crisis of Faith" was about anti-GLBT: A. language in school. B. action in church. C. discrimination in Archie's bar. D. hate crime and murder.
9. All My Children broke ground in 2006 with the introduction of Zarf, a male rock star who was transitioning to ___. A. Zelda B. Zsa Zsa C. Zizi D. Zoe
10. The first ENDA style legislation was introduced in Washington by Congresswoman ___ in 1974.

1.D 2.B 3.D 4.C 5.B 6.D 7.A 8.D 9.D 10.Bella Abzug

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"Count Me Out" by Farley Granger with Robert Calhoun St. Martin's Press \$26.95

Farley Granger's detailed and well written autobiography chronicles his journey from Hollywood, to the New York stage by way of exciting European cities and early TV theatricals, but it's the people he meets or parties with or sleeps with that make this book fascinating. And the honesty about his same-sex experiences, especially in the first half of the book is refreshing. Perhaps he's more veiled in the second half because more of the characters are still alive.

Each of the detailed remembrances sets a scene that makes you feel as though you were there, if you know who the people are he's talking about. Granger dishes on big stars like Barbara Stanwyck, Joan Crawford and Danny Kaye, and flays the foolishness of studio mogul Sam Goldwyn. But when Granger talks about how interesting it was meeting Kay Medford and Maurice Evans when he was in the navy during the war, and when he mentions bumping into Stella Adler and how she was an important influence in his life, though I happen to know who those people are, I couldn't help but wonder whether people younger than I and with less interest and awareness of the period, would be lost.

Well, so what...this is a book for middle-aged movie queens who live for 1950s Hollywood and New York theater dish. I certainly fit into that category.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Haskalah

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Contact VGP to list your organization

QUOTE #1

"...I can safely say that she is the most GLBT supportive candidate for Commissioner & deserves your support."
-- Local Activist Allyson Hamm on her mom Gloria Hamm's run for Lehigh County Commissioner in the May 15th primary election.

QUOTE #2

"Face it, if a Pentagon general, his salary paid with my tax dollars, can label homosexual acts as "immoral" without a call for his dismissal, who are the moral high and mighty kidding? -- Harvey Feinstein on AMERICA watching Don Imus's self-immolation in a state of shock

QUOTE #3

"Over the years Wimbeldon has always been one of the leaders in our sport in so many areas. Because of that, it is truly amazing to me that all of these years later they still have not stepped up and done the right thing on the prize money issue." -- Billy Jean King before Wimbeldon finally announcing equal prize money for male and female winners.

QUOTE #4

"If an applicant makes a statement that he or she is homosexual, the recruiter must inform the applicant in a professional manner that they are not eligible for enlistment." -- from an Advocate article about an army recruiter that insulted openly gay man that she had sought for enlistment.

NOTE #5

"You can make a donation to PA Diversity Network by making your Amazon.com purchases through the PDN web site at www.padiversity.com. Just go through the site to Amazon, make your purchase and PDN will get a small percent at no cost to you!

QUOTE #6

"It is not every day that an example of a landmark civil rights bill comes before the legislative body. Which is why I sincerely hope that you will support an assembly companion (yet to be introduced) to the proposed LGBT Non Discrimination Bill, SB 761." -- From a letter to Jennifer Mann from Adrian Shanker, co-chair of Muhlenberg College's Gay/Straight Alliance. State Rep. Mann's staff has indicated she will sign on to such legislation.

Distelfink® 5/07 by Ruby Zebu "Senior Moment"

* Note to self:

Next time you think up a great comic strip joke in the beginning of the month...write it down!!!!

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.